NATSUMI ANDO

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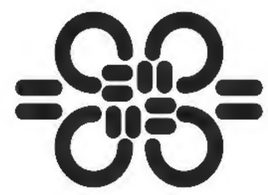
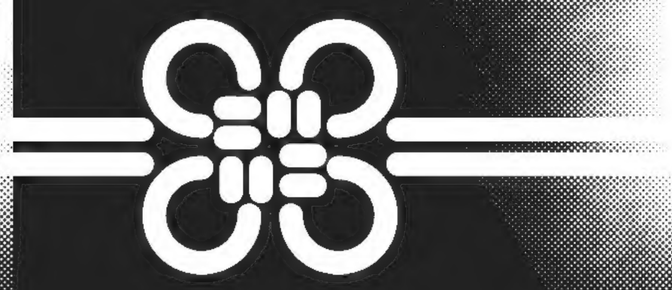
Something's Wrong With Us

Something's Wrong With Us



NATSUMI ANDO



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STORY & CHARACTERS

Despite his failing eyesight, Tsubaki finally managed to get back into making sweets. Meanwhile, Nao opened her own shop, Hanagasumi, with Takigawa's help. She's determined to get revenge on Kogetsuan.

Although they are now rivals in the *wagashi* business, Nao and Tsubaki end up having to collaborate for a *wagashi* event and find themselves going on a business trip together to a hot spring inn. Meanwhile, Shiori tells the proprietress back at Kogetsuan that she is pregnant with Tsubaki's child.

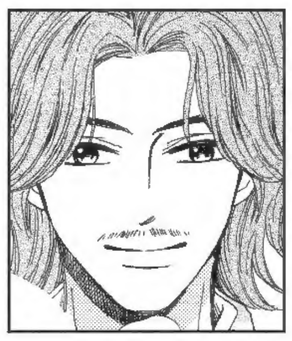
Nao Hanaoka

A *wagashi* confectioner and the owner of Hanagasumi.

Finds meaning in life by making *wagashi* that connect her to her late mother.

Tsubaki used to call her "Sakura" back when they were children. Seeing the color red gives her severe heart palpitations.

Takigawa



Helps Nao with Hanagasumi. His whole family were fans of Nao's mother's sweets.

Shiori

Tsubaki's former fiancée. She rescued Tsubaki from the Kogetsuan fire, which left a scar on her face.

The Proprietress

Tsubaki's mother. She lost her husband (Tsubaki's father) 18 years ago, and has been desperate to make Tsubaki the head of Kogetsuan ever since.

Old Master Takatsuki

Tsubaki's grandfather. The head of Kogetsuan. He's been hospitalized since the fire.

Tsubaki Takatsuki

The heir to the historic *wagashi* shop Kogetsuan. Proposed to Nao without realizing that she is his childhood friend.

He grew to actually love Nao and was shocked when he learned her true identity.

His eyes sometimes fail him because of damage from the fire.

Chapter 46 *A Pitch-Black Sea*

"PREGNANT"
...?

ARE YOU SERIOUS, SHIORI-SAN...?

NOD

...

OH MY... NOTHING HAS MADE ME THIS HAPPY IN AGES.

I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER FOR YOU!

THAT'S WONDERFUL, SHIORI-SAN!

A CHILD, WITH TSUBAKI?

...WE'LL START THE WEDDING PREPARATIONS AT ONCE.

ONCE TSUBAKI RETURNS...

THE HEIR TO KOGETSUAN!

OF COURSE! YOU HAVE A BABY!

WE MUST MAKE A PROPER ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE OTHERS.

"WED-DING"...?

...

I CAN'T DO IT...

I CAN'T GIVE HIM UP,

NOT ANY-MORE...

ぎゅ

SCRUNCH

TSUBAKI-SAN...

THERE'LL BE SO MUCH TO DO.

I NEVER WANT...

...TO LOSE HIM AGAIN...

湯宿こみち

Sign: Hot Spring Inn Komichi

PLOP

SO HOT...

IT'S MAKING ME DIZZY...

SHOULD WE GET OUT?

SOUNDS GOOD.

...SO GET OUT A FEW MINUTES AFTER I GO.

IF MORE PEOPLE COME, I'LL ASK THEM TO WAIT FOR A WHILE...

BLUR

TH...

THANKS.

TSU-
BAKI?

...!

IT'S
NOTHING.

...

...

I'M SO VERY SORRY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY MISTAKE CAUSED YOU SUCH HORRIBLE TROUBLE!

天風呂

ぬっ PEEK

Curtain: Outdoor Bath

HANAOKA-SAMA!

OH...

...THE OUTDOOR BATH.

PLEASE GO ENJOY...

I'LL ACCEPT ANY PUNISH-MENT.

HOW CAN I EVER APOLO-GIZE...?

NOTHING BAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

PLEASE.

HE ACTUALLY KEPT WATCH FOR MY SAKE...

MY BODY...

...STILL FEELS HOT.

CLUNK
カタ…

HANAOKA-SAN?

IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE ?

I JUST WANTED TO WATCH THE OCEAN FOR A BIT.

I WAS FEELING KIND OF RESTLESS...

IT'S COMFORT-ABLE, CLEAN, AND RELAXING! INCREDIBLY SO!

That's great.

OH!

BUT THE ROOM IS AMAZING!

KSSH

THE OCEAN AT NIGHT IS A LITTLE UNNERVING, ISN'T IT...?

IT'S SO BLACK THAT I FEEL LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO SUCK ME IN...

WHAT?

BUT IT'S SO CALM RIGHT NOW!

OH, APPARENTLY THE SEA IS GOING TO GET A LITTLE ROUGH TOMORROW, SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT I FEEL LIKE THE DARKNESS ALSO HIDES THE UNCERTAINTIES.

I ACTUALLY FIND IT CALMING.

THAT'S HOW THE SEA IS.

ONE MOMENT, IT COULD BE GLITTERING IN THE MORNING SUN LIKE DIAMONDS...

...THEN A FEW HOURS LATER, IT BARES ITS FANGS, HOWLING LIKE A BEAST.

MY FATHER...

...DIED OUT AT SEA.

YOUR FATHER DID?

YES.

IN A TIDAL SURGE...

THIRTY LONG YEARS AGO.

...AND MY LIFE HAS BEEN A WHIRLWIND EVER SINCE.

THAT WAS WHEN I TOOK OVER THIS INN...

YOU SHOULD SCRAP THE OCEAN IDEA.

IS THIS...

...WHY TSUBAKI SAID THAT...?

Sign: Hot Spring Inn Komichi

こみち

DING

DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE OUT OF YOUR ROOM.

TSUBAKI...

THANKS.

...

IT WAS ON THE FLOOR THERE.

THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?

HUH?

ABOUT THE SWEETS FOR THE FAIR...

YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

...

...I'VE ACTUALLY HAD THE CHANCE TO TAKE A BATH AND RELAX IN A TIDY ROOM WITH A NICE VIEW...

...IT MAKES ME WANT TO ADD MORE SPECIAL THINGS TO THE EXPERIENCE.

I'VE NEVER GONE ON VACATION BEFORE, SO I NEVER REALIZED IT...

NOW THAT...

...BUT...

THE IDEA YOU TALKED ABOUT DURING DINNER...

MAKING EXCITING SWEETS... IT MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD IDEA, AFTER ALL.

HEY, WAIT.

THAT'S ALL.

HERE... IT'S KAGA PLUM WINE.

SHE GAVE ME A BOTTLE FOR YOU, AS WELL.

I GOT IT FROM KOMICHI'S PROPRI-ETRESS.

梅酒

Bottle: Plum Wine

GOOD-NIGHT, THEN.

That's it.

...

IT'S LIGHT AND EASY TO DRINK, APPARENTLY.

HUH?

DO YOU WANT TO DRINK THIS TOGETHER IN MY ROOM?

WHY WOULD HE SAY THAT?

WHAT IS HE THINKING?

I'M KIDDING.

YOU SHOULD SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE.

SURE, JUST A GLASS...

I WANT...

...TO DISCUSS SOMETHING ABOUT THE SWEETS.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PROPRIETRESS'S FATHER...

...DIED OUT AT SEA?

I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SWEETS TO MAKE IF I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE CLIENT.

I LOOKED INTO THE INN'S HISTORY.

WHEN I ACCEPTED THIS JOB...

I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THE HISTORY...

WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR AND WHAT THEY CARE ABOUT...

THAT'S RIGHT.

TSUBAKI ALWAYS VALUES THE CLIENT'S SENTIMENTS.

HE STUDIED TO PREPARE...

...I STILL WANT TO MAKE SWEETS WITH OCEAN MOTIFS.

BUT...

WHAT?

DOESN'T IT SCARE YOU?

IT'S THANKS TO THE OCEAN...

...THAT I CAN MAKE A LIVING THIS WAY.

TO HAVE TO GO ON LIVING BY THE OCEAN...?

I THINK IT'S AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR LIVES.

I'M THE SAME.

FOR THE PEOPLE WORKING HERE...

...THE OCEAN IS A NECESSITY, ISN'T IT?

BUT...

THE WORLD OF WAGASHI *MESSED UP MY LIFE.*

...I CAN'T GIVE IT UP.

THE MORNING, I GUESS?

TH...

THE OCEAN BATHED IN MORNING LIGHT!

WAKURA IS ONE OF THE RARE PLACES ALONG THE SEA OF JAPAN WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE SUNRISE.

IF WE'RE DOING THIS, WE WANT THE OCEAN AT ITS MOST BEAUTIFUL.

HUH?

WHICH KIND OF OCEAN DO YOU MEAN?

OH, AND THE CLEAR BLUE SKY REFLECTED ON THE SEA IS REALLY PRETTY!

THE SUNSET'S NICE, TOO.

MORNING, HUH...?

ISN'T IT PRETTIER AT NIGHT, IN THE MOONLIGHT?

THE MOON...

HMMM

...

WHAT ABOUT USING *RAKUGAN*?

IT'S SO PRETTY...

IF ONLY WE COULD HOLD THE OCEAN IN OUR HANDS LIKE THIS.

EXACTLY.

WE CAN FILL THE BOX WITH *KANTEN* TO REPRESENT SEASCAPES.

WE COULD MAKE A BOX WITH IT, LIKE THIS.

NEAT IDEA!

THEN WE COULD MAKE ALL SORTS OF OCEANS.

IT MIGHT BE CUTE TO MAKE THEM LOOK LIKE LITTLE PICTURES.

WOULDN'T THESE MAKE GOOD GIFTS FOR GUESTS TO TAKE HOME, AS WELL?

HEY.

LET'S DISCUSS IT WITH THE PROPRI-ETR—

WE'LL HAVE TO SEE HOW THIN WE CAN MAKE THE *RAKUGAN*.

SUNRISE

GOLD LEAF

は

GASP:

TH... THIS PLUM WINE...

... REALLY GOES DOWN EASY.

MAYBE I SHOULD GET SOME AS A GIFT.

I ALWAYS LET MY GUARD DOWN...

...WHEN I TALK ABOUT SWEETS.

S... SORRY.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME WE'VE DRUNK TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

THE LAST TIME...

...WAS JUNE, THREE YEARS AGO.

WE CELEBRATED TOGETHER AFTER THE SAMIDARETEI TEA CEREMONY...

I WANT TO MAKE YOU ALL MINE.

THREE YEARS AGO...

AFTER THE TEA CEREMONY...

...THE MOON LOOKED RED...

THE NIGHT...

WAS THAT NIGHT...

...JUST A LIE, TOO?

HOW HOT WE WERE, TO THE ENDS OF OUR FINGERTIPS...

HOW OUR BODIES TURNED PINK LIKE SAKURA*...

*The Japanese cherry.

WAS IT ALL A LIE?

スッ

WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?

TOMOR-
ROW'S
ANOTHER
EARLY
DAY.

GO
BACK
AND GET
SOME
SLEEP.

スッ
SST

SHUTTER

!

フラ

BLUR

URG...

ARE YOUR EYES...

IT'S NOTHING.

...

TSUBAKI?!

...GIVING YOU TROUBLE AGAIN?

...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

I SAW YOU...

...IN THE GARDEN ON THE DAY OF THE SAMIDARETEI SELECTION.

BUT YOU SEEMED TO HAVE NO IDEA I WAS THERE...

...DON'T YOU DARE TELL ANYONE.

I CAN'T UNTIL THE *ENYUKAI* IS OVER.

IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, SHOULDN'T YOU GET YOUR EYES TREATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...?

BUT...!

WHO CARES ABOUT THE *ENYUKAI*?

IF YOU LOSE YOUR EYESIGHT, YOU'LL—

WHY...?

SO MANY BIG NAMES AND DIGNITARIES FROM THE AREA WILL BE AT THE *ENYUKAI*.

PRESENTING INADEQUATE SWEETS THERE...

"WHO CARES"?

...WILL DEVASTATE KOGETSUAN'S REPUTATION.

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?

MY KOGETSUAN, WILL END.

KOGET-SUAN...

...FROM LOSING MY EYESIGHT.

THAT'S NO DIFFERENT...

THERE'S NO WAY...

...HE COULD EVER GIVE IT UP ON HIS OWN.

YES, HELLO?

OH, IT'S YOU.

WELL...

THAT'S FINE. THANK YOU.

I DID ASK YOU TO GET THEM ALONE TOGETHER...

ISN'T THAT TAKING THINGS A TAD TOO FAR?

...BUT IN THE BATH?

WAIT...

...YOU DID WHAT?

OKAY, THEN.

DING

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER GOING TO BE...

...NAO-CHAN?

THAT MAY BE SO...

...BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP TAKING OVER KOGETSUAN.

I LOVE HIM.

EVEN NOW...

TSUBAKI...

I'M GOING...

...TO RELEASE TSUBAKI FROM KOGETSUAN'S CURSE...

Chapter 47 *Love Parting Ways*

WHO KNOWS...?

WHY DID YOU AGREE TO TAKE ON THIS JOB WITH US?

I KNOW WHAT TSUBAKI IS THINKING.

THE LESS HE TRUSTS SOMETHING, THE MORE HE TRIES TO KEEP IT BY HIS SIDE...

KSSH

A KISS SHE COULD GIVE ANYONE...

WHAT AN UNCARING KISS.

...

NO HEAT...

NO EMOTION...

...

SO THAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER WANTED.

I'M GOING TO PROVE MOMMA'S INNOCENCE.

I'M GOING TO TAKE WHAT MOMMA LEFT BEHIND FOR ME...

...AND MAKE IT MINE.

I'LL WORK ON THE KOMICHI SWEETS PROPERLY, DON'T WORRY.

SAKURA...

TUNK

...BLOOM AFTER THE *TSUBAKI** FALL.

*The Japanese camellia.

...!

WHAM

Sign: Haseya

RIGHT...

...SHIORI-SAN?

I DON'T THINK...

...MY FATHER WILL GIVE HIS BLESSING.

HASEYA-SAN MUST BE SO PLEASED.

IT'S THE FIRST GRANDCHILD FOR BOTH FAMILIES, AFTER ALL.

OH, MY... I'M SO EXCITED.

...

ズズズ

WHY NOT?

A GRAND-CHILD IS ALWAYS HAPPY NEWS.

B...

BUT I...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

THANK YOU FOR SPARING TIME DURING YOUR BUSY MORNING.

THE REASON WE'RE HERE TODAY...

...IS JUST AS I EXPLAINED OVER THE PHONE LAST NIGHT.

MY SON IS AWAY FROM KANAZAWA AT THE MOMENT ON BUSINESS...

...BUT WE HOPE VERY MUCH TO WELCOME YOUR DAUGHTER INTO THE TAKATSUKI FAMILY.

SHIORI-SAN IS EXPECTING MY SON'S CHILD.

IT'S CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, AFTER ALL.

BUT WON'T YOU FORGIVE OUR PAST TRANS-GRESSIONS AND GIVE US YOUR BLESSING?

I REALIZE WHAT AN INSENSITIVE REQUEST THIS IS...

SHIORI IS NO LONGER PART OF MY HOUSEHOLD.

WHAT SHE DOES IS NONE OF MY CONCERN.

PLEASE DO WITH HER AS YOU WISH.

...

TUNK

FATHE—

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

MOTHER...

SHIORI.

PREGNANCY CAN INCREASE YOUR CHO-LESTEROL,

SO MAKE SURE TO EAT THESE.

BE SURE TO WATCH OUT FOR RAW FOODS.

HERE.

TAKE THESE WALNUTS.

...FATHER TOLD US TO GIVE YOU THESE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

AND HE WENT TO THE MARKETS EARLY THIS MORNING TO BUY THOSE WALNUTS.

EVER SINCE THE CALL LAST NIGHT...

...HE WAS ALL RESTLESS.

WELL...

YOU SHOULD COME VISIT ONCE YOU HAVE THE CHILD.

YOUR MOTHER WILL WANT TO HOLD THE BABY.

HE CAN'T HIDE HOW HAPPY HE REALLY IS.

AHEM

AHEM

I'M SO GLAD FOR YOU, SHIORI-SAN.

HAVING A CHILD CAN DO WONDERS.

IT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING IN AN INSTANT...

...NO MATTER THE SITUATION.

庵月光

Sign: Kogetsuan

SCRUNCH

HARD AT WORK, I SEE.

YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE RETURNING TONIGHT.

I HAD TO PREP FOR TOMORROW, EITHER WAY.

HOW IS THE BEAN PASTE LOOKING TODAY?

TSUBAKI-SAN.

BY THE TIME I WAS LEAVING THE INN...

...NAO HAD ALREADY DEPARTED.

I'M GOING TO PROVE MOMMA'S INNOCENCE.

...

HOW IS THE JOB FOR THE INN COMING ALONG?

JUST FINE.

WE'LL MAKE SOME SAMPLES TO SHOW KOMICHI WITHIN THE WEEK.

WHAT IF...

NO.

THAT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE...

FWIP / / °

SUNRISE

...THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO IS EXACTLY AS NAO BELIEVES?

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET BUSY FOR YOU.

SOMEONE ELSE...

...CAN TAKE CARE OF THE JOB FOR THE INN...

...TSU-BAKI-SAN.

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME.

WHAT ARE YOU TAKING ABOUT?

THAT AGAIN?

I HEARD FROM SHIORI-SAN HERSELF...

YOUR MARRIAGE TO SHIORI-SAN.

...THAT SHE'S PREGNANT WITH YOUR CHILD.

YOU HAD BETTER TAKE PROPER RESPONSIBILITY THIS TIME, OR ELSE.

THE POOR DEAR...

SHE SEEMED SO LOST,

NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO ON HER OWN.

EXCUSE ME...?

…

Sign: Hanagasumi

KER-CHAK

THE DAYS REALLY ARE GETTING SHORTER...

DID YOU INVESTIGATE ALL THIS, TAKIGAWA-SAN?

THIS...

-sama

(Unit: Yen)

NAO-CHAN?

YOU'RE BACK?

WHUMP

HERE'S SOME MORE.

I THOUGHT I'D DO IT WHILE YOU WERE GONE.

OF COURSE. YOU ASKED ME TO.

PLUS, ONLY LAST YEAR'S RECORDS ARE ACTUALLY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

BUT CONSIDERING THE AMOUNT OF HASSLE AND MONEY IT TAKES, IT'S NO WONDER THERE'S NO TRANSPARENCY.

SUPPOSEDLY, ANYONE CAN ACCESS THEM AT CITY HALL.

COUNCILMAN MIZOGUCHI'S POLITICAL FUNDS.

THESE PUBLICITY EXPENSES...

...ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN HIS OTHERS. UNNATURALLY SO.

DOES ANYTHING CATCH YOUR EYE?

YUP.

Notes (% for business use, etc.)
5 Transportation/ communication
6 Human resources
7 Office expenses
4 Necessary materials
-sama

THE BULK OF THE RECEIPTS ARE FROM ONE PARTICULAR SHOP.

WHAT'S MORE,

...

KOGETSUAN.

CARE TO GUESS WHICH?

I KNEW HE WAS A KEY PLAYER...

COUNCILMAN MIZOGUCHI...

KYOKO-SAN IS PROBABLY THE ONE BEHIND IT.

I THINK ...

...HE'S FALLEN FOR YOUR TRAP, NAO-CHAN.

WE'RE HOSTING A MAJOR TEA CEREMONY AT THE TAKIGAWA HOUSE SOON.

SHE MUST MANIPULATE THE BOOKS SO THAT NO ONE NOTICES.

I INVITED COUNCILMAN MIZOGUCHI, TOO...

...AND HE REQUESTED THAT THE SWEETS...

...BE FROM HANAGASUMI.

YOUR RESOLVE...

...HASN'T CHANGED, IT SEEMS.

DID NOTHING HAPPEN IN WAKURA?

PLEASE LET ME DO IT!

I'LL DO IT.

REALLY ?!

...

...

WHAT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY HAPPENED?

OF COURSE NOT.

REALLY...

...YOU'RE SO BAD AT LYING, NAO-CHAN.

YOUR EYES ARE PUFFY.

...WITH TSUBAKI-KUN?

WHAT'S HAPPENED...

I CAN'T HELP YOU...

...UNLESS YOU LET ME IN.

BUT HE SAYS HE WON'T GET THEM FIXED.

NOT UNTIL HE MAKES THE SWEETS FOR THE *ENYUKAI*.

I THINK IT'S PRETTY SERIOUS.

APPAR-ENTLY...

...THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH TSUBAKI'S EYES.

HE'S WRONG, BUT HE WON'T ACCEPT IT.

...IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN HIS EYES.

KOGE-TSUAN...

AS LONG AS IT EXISTS, TSUBAKI WILL BE BOUND TO IT FOREVER.

EVEN THOUGH...

...THERE ARE SO MANY SWEETS THAT ONLY TSUBAKI CAN MAKE.

HE CAN'T ENVISION A FUTURE WITHOUT KOGETSUAN.

I WANT TSUBAKI...

...TO KEEP MAKING SWEETS FOREVER.

Bottle: Plum Wine

I SEE.

...SO THAT TSUBAKI WILL GET HIS EYES TREATED SOONER.

SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO TAKE OVER KOGETSUAN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...

SCRUNCH

TSUBAKI-KUN WILL HATE YOU FOR IT.

HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

...WOW.

HONESTLY, NAO-CHAN...

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO PREDICT THIS...?

...AND THAT YOU CARE ***THAT*** MUCH ABOUT HIM.

I ENVY TSUBAKI-KUN...

OH, COME ON...

TAKI-GAWA-SAN,

YOU ALWAYS KID AROUND WITH ME...

I THINK I'M JEALOUS.

I KNOW, NAO-CHAN.

LET'S GO DRINK TO THE STARS.

UH...

"Stars"...?

WAIT...! TAKIGAWA-SAN!

I'VE NEVER CLIMBED ON A ROOF BEFORE.

THE EVENING STAR IS SO PRETTY...

VENUS IS SUCH A FITTING NAME, ISN'T IT?

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID...

...THE STAR WAS SO BRIGHT THAT I TRIED TO CHASE IT DOWN.

I WANTED TO MAKE IT MINE SO BADLY.

It set about two hours later, though.

PFFT

¡3°¡

YOU WERE SUCH A FREE SPIRIT, EVEN AS A KID!

...

I WASN'T KIDDING AROUND.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN...

...SPECIAL TO ME, NAO-CHAN.

I ONLY EVER DANCE AT HOME AS A HOBBY.

I'VE ALWAYS DONE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DANCE...

...BUT ONLY VERY CASUALLY.

I'VE NEVER GONE ON STAGE OR ASPIRED TO BE A MASTER...

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE MORE I GET TO KNOW YOU...

MUMBLE

I'M NEVER SERIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, YOU SEE...

WHOOSH

IT'S ACTUALLY BECAUSE I'M SCARED.

SCARED OF LOSING SOMETHING AFTER BECOMING INVESTED IN IT...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE GOOD AT EVERY-THING.

THAT'S NOT IT.

...

SHE'S SO DETERMINED...

BUT THIS GIRL...

...NEVER GIVING IN TO ANYTHING...

...IN PURSUIT OF A SINGLE GOAL.

...AND CONSTANT PASSION FOR WAGASHI.

WITH AN HONEST, SINCERE...

I FIND THIS GIRL, WHO'S SO MUCH YOUNGER THAN I AM...

MY FEELINGS FOR HER HAVE GROWN OVER THESE PAST THREE YEARS.

...SO DAZZLING...

...AND SO PRECIOUS.

I SWEAR TO YOU, NAO-CHAN...

...I'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE, EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE IS.

I HEARD FROM SHIORI-SAN...

...THAT SHE'S PREGNANT WITH YOUR CHILD.

...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SHIORI-SAN, I'M COMING IN.

スッ

SST

DID SHE GO OUT...?

パサー

TUNK

SHIORI...

...SAN?

FWUMP

FWISH

TSUBAKI-SAN.

PLEASE...

...SLEEP WITH ME.

SH...

SHIORI-SAN?!

VWISH

I KNOW...

I KNOW THAT YOUR HEART WILL NEVER BE MINE...

BUT...

WHAM

I'M SORRY...

MAKE IT COME TRUE.

PLEASE!

PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR CHILD, TSUBAKI-SAN.

PLEASE ...

I'M BEG-GING YOU...

Chapter 48 *Light on the Snow*

SHIORI-SAN...

YOU'RE THE KIND PERSON WHO NOTICED ME...

I...

I'VE LOVED YOU FOR SO LONG...

I LOVE YOU, TSUBAKI-SAN...

キュッ…

SQUEEZE

ALWAYS UNWAVERING...

...AND SINCERE.

SO...

PLEASE...

SST

スー

CHILL ヒヤ

SO?

WHA—?

WHAT IS IT YOU LOVE ABOUT ME?

SHUDDER

EYES THAT COULD DRAG ME INTO THEIR DARK DEPTHS...

SUCH COLD EYES...

TSUBAKI-SA—

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THAT SIDE OF HIM.

BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS JUST NICE TO YOU.

#11 KRK!

GASP: は

TSUBAKI-SAN...?

THIS PERSON...

TUNK

VWIP

WOBBLE

SST

SHHWMP

スー

スー

IN THE PAST, I MIGHT NOT HAVE HESITATED TO SLEEP WITH YOU.

EVEN IF I FELT NOTHING FOR YOU. USING YOU LIKE A TOOL...

SWISH

...NOW...

BUT...

KNOWING WHAT I KNOW NOW...

I COULD NEVER DO IT.

...

TUNK

I DON'T PLAN...

...ON TELLING ANYONE ANYTHING.

YOU'RE FREE TO FEEL AT HOME HERE.

I COULD NEVER DO IT.

I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO SNOW.

SO EARLY, TOO!

WELCOME TO KOGET-SUAN.

WHEW! IT'S SO COLD!

Sign: Kogetsuan

DO YOU HAVE A SWEET CALLED "NANKIN"?

EXCUSE ME.

I'M RUNNING AN ERRAND, AND I'M LOST...

MISS.

THAT WOULD BE THIS ONE HERE.

SNOW...

THAT'S RIGHT, TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER.

NANKIN...?

UM...

I GUESS YOU DON'T.

WAIT.

BUT...

I...

I GUESS NOT...

光月

THAT END WITH AN "N" DURING THE WINTER SOLSTICE...

IT'S CONSIDERED GOOD LUCK TO EAT FOODS...

...SO THESE ARE ALSO CALLED *"NANKIN"* DURING THIS SEASON.

AREN'T THESE...

...KABOCHA MANJU?

I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO BERATE ME AGAIN...

HE'S THE LAST PERSON I WANTED HELP FROM...

THEN I'D LIKE TO BUY THESE.

HOW REALLY? INTER-ESTING!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M SORRY...

...ABOUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

UM...

...ASK FOR THE DAY OFF IF YOU'RE TIRED.

LOOK...

I'M SOR—

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.

YOU USUALLY HAVE NO PROBLEM ANSWERING THAT KIND OF THING.

YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY NOW, DON'T YOU?

...THAT YOU AND TSUBAKI-SAN WERE ALREADY INVOLVED LIKE THAT...

SEE...

I HAD NO IDEA...

...

YOU KNOW, I...

...

...

SCRUNCH

SCRUNCH

NNNGH...

I TOTALLY STEPPED OUT OF LINE...

I'M REALLY SORRY!!

...WHEN I SAID YOU'D NEVER WIN HIM OVER AND STUFF!

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE!

THAT'S...

P...

...AT ALL...

FWMP

H...

HEY?

HA...

I'M ALWAYS WORRIED THERE MIGHT NOT BE BEAN PASTE INSIDE... AND I CAN NEVER ENJOY THEM.

I GOT *SOME* MANJU.

YOU EAT THIS ONE, SHIORI.

THE *MANJU* MY FATHER GAVE ME...

...HAD NO BEAN PASTE INSIDE...

I'VE...

...NEVER CARED FOR *MANJU*...

...BUT MY *MANJU*...

MY SISTERS GOT ONES WITH PLENTY OF FILLING...

...WAS A LETDOWN.

IT WAS SUCH A DISAPPOINT-MENT.

...WANTED TO BE RECOGNIZED.

I JUST...

JUST ONCE...

I'M NOT ACTUALLY PREGNANT AT ALL.

...AT ALL.

...

I'M...

...SOMEONE TO LOVE ME.

...I WANTED...

Sign: Takigawa

多喜川

...MADE TODAY BY HANAOKA-SAN FROM HANAGASUMI.

ENJOY THE *OCHA-GASHI** ...

*Sweets to go with tea.

I CALL IT "*KAZAHANA*."

THEY'RE *JOYO MANJU**.

*Manju with sticky yam used in its dough.

...I SEE EITHER FALLEN SNOW BLOWN UP INTO THE AIR OR A FLURRY FROM A CLEAR SKY.

WHICH DID YOU INTEND?

WHAT A GENTLE TEXTURE...

I NEVER KNEW *MANJU* COULD BE SO AIRY.

LOOKING AT THIS...

I SEE.

SNOW FROM A CLEAR SKY.

THAT WAS MY INITIAL INTENTION.

BUT THEN...

...THE STAR WAS SO PRETTY.

?

WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO START A *WAGASHI* SHOP...

...I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR PASSING INTERESTS.

IT WAS A SPLENDID TEA CEREMONY.

AND THE SWEET WAS DELICIOUS.

THANK YOU, SENSEI.

I'M THINKING OF TAKING IT A BIT MORE SERIOUSLY.

CRUNCH!!

シャ!!

HUH...

COUNCIL-MAN MIZO-GUCHI.

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A GARDEN OUT BACK.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY.

WELL, YOUR *WAGASHI*...

...ARE VERY APPEALING.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN INTO *WAGASHI*, SIR?

NO... ONLY SINCE I STARTED FREQUENTLY GETTING THEM FROM A SUPPORTER OF MINE.

I STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.

I HEARD FROM TAKIGAWA-SAN...

...THAT YOU RECOMMENDED MY SHOP FOR THE *OCHAGASHI*.

OH, NO...

NOT IN PARTICU-LAR.

YOU KNOW, I WAS SURPRISED.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO PARTIAL TO KOGETSUAN.

I HOPE...

...I CAN DO BETTER SO YOU'LL FAVOR ME, TOO.

YOU'RE QUITE PASSIONATE.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I CAN EVER DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.

TELL ME...

...WHATEVER SCHEME YOU HAVE WITH KOGETSUAN.

RECORDING...

I JUST...

...WANT TO EXPAND MY SHOP.

TRUE.

MAYBE IT'S A GOOD TIME TO SWITCH OVER TO A NEW SHOP.

YOU WANT IN?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...WITH YOU AND KOGETSUAN?

BUT FIRST...

WHAT'S THE DEAL...

YOU'RE AWFULLY FIXATED ON THAT SHOP.

WHY IS THAT?

UH...

...ABOUT MY POLITICAL FUNDS?

IS THIS...

YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M NOT BREAKING ANY LAWS.

YOU CAN'T BLACKMAIL ME WITH THAT.

...

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DID THE PROPRIETRESS PUT YOU UP TO THIS?

KOGETSUAN WILL GO DOWN SOON, ANYWAY.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS, THOUGH.

WHAT?

THE OLD MASTER...

YOU DON'T KNOW?

...DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

YOU MET WITH THE OLD MASTER?

KIND OF.

NOT A TRACE LEFT OF HIS FORMER STATURE.

HE WAS BASICALLY AN EMPTY SHELL.

GRIP

IF YOU'RE WILLING...

...I COULD GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.

ONCE THE OLD MASTER'S GONE...

...THE CUSTOMERS CONNECTED TO HIM WILL LEAVE.

DON'T—

HEY...!

SPLASH

OH, JEEZ, SORRY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE STANDING THERE.

ぽた DRIP

ぽた DRIP

SO HE'S NOT AS STUPID AS I THOUGHT.

TCH

I'M SO SORRY, SIR!

I'LL HELP DRY YOUR SUIT RIGHT AWAY!

NO NEED!

I CAME BY CAR.

IF YOU WANT TO REVEAL WHO YOU ARE, NOW'S THE TIME.

THE OLD MASTER HAS THE FINAL SAY IN WHO GETS TO BE...

...THE NEXT HEAD OF KOGETSUAN.

HELLO, COUNCILMAN MIZOGUCHI?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

WHAT...?

...SO I WAS WONDERING IF SOMETHING WAS WRONG...

OH, NO.

IT'S JUST THAT YOU HAVEN'T ORDERED ANY SWEETS RECENTLY...

...DID YOU JUST SAY?

WHAT...

SLAM

B-BUT HE NEEDS TO STAY AND REST!

IMMEDI-ATELY!

I'M TAKING MY FATHER HOME.

ARE YOU UNSATISFIED WITH OUR CARE?

KODAN HOSPITAL

"HANAGASUMI"?

WHAT'S THE MATTER,

TAKATSUKI-SAN?!

SHE SEEMS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR DEALINGS.

YES.

WHAT DID YOU TELL THAT WOMAN?

I HAVE TO KEEP HIM CLOSE AT HAND!

LATER THAT DAY

THE LITTLE PEST!!

HOW COULD SHE HAVE CAUGHT ON...?

...HE'LL REVEAL WHAT I DID DURING THE FIRE.

IF THE OLD MASTER'S MEMORY RETURNS...

WHEW!

OH, FATHER...

I'M SO SORRY...

I WANT TO GET HIM DISCHARGED RIGHT AWAY!

I...

I'LL GO CHECK WITH HIS DOCTOR.

LET'S GET YOU HOME, SHALL WE?

THE WILL I OBTAINED IN THE FIRE WAS A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER.

HOW MANY TIMES DOES THE SHADOW OF THAT WOMAN HAVE TO GET IN MY WAY?

I'M SO CLOSE...

SO CLOSE TO GETTING MY REVENGE.

THIS MAN HID THE REAL ONE SOMEWHERE...

SA...

...AND MY HUSBAND'S—

THAT WOMAN...

SA...
KURA...

ヒク
QUIVER

Chapter 49 *Courage and a Trap*

WHY...

...ARE YOU HERE...?

COUNCIL-MAN MIZO-GUCHI...

...WAS QUITE TALKATIVE.

...YOUR REGULARS AND THE PUBLIC WILL THINK...

...ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT COUNCIL-MAN...?

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE...

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KOGETSUAN'S REPUTATION?

NAO-SAN.

VERY SOON...

...WE'RE GOING TO BE RELATIVES WITH HASEYA-SAN.

...THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN INSIST THAT BLACK IS WHITE AND MAKE IT TRUE.

...BUT IN THIS WORLD...

IT'S PROBABLY BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION...

SHIORI-SAN...

IS PREGNANT.

...

HASEYA-SAN...

"RELA-TIVES" ...?

IT'S TSUBAKI'S CHILD.

TSU-BAKI'S...?

MOVE!

NOW, OUT OF MY WAY.

CRAAASH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

LET'S GO, FATHER.

101

FOR NAO

7/1
KRK

BUT...

...THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I'M THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO KOGETSUAN.

I...

I'M ITSUKI-SAN'S ACTUAL CHILD.

PT!

WHY YOU ---

...

I'LL SEE THAT YOU MEET THE SAME FATE AS THAT WOMAN. I PROMISE.

THERE YOU GO, FATHER.

YOU GET A LOVELY VIEW OF YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN FROM HERE.

Sign: Kogetsuan

庵月光

THAT'S ALL.

I CARE ABOUT HIM IN MY OWN WAY, AS A FAMILY MEMBER.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU DIDN'T VISIT HIM IN THE HOSPITAL ONCE, AND NOW YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM HERE?

...

BESIDES, HE WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO MARRY SHIORI-SAN ANYWAY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF TSUBAKI'S EXPECTING A KID.

DNA Paternity Test Results

NAME/SEX
DATE OF BIRTH
DATE OF SAMPLE COLLECTION
LOCUS PI

CHIL
NAO
199
20

HELLO?

KOGETSUAN-SAN?

WHATEVER IT TAKES...

...I HAVE TO TALK TO THE OLD MASTER.

...

I'LL NEVER MAKE MOMMA'S DREAM COME TRUE...

...OR SET TSUBAKI FREE IF I MISS MY CHANCE.

I'D LIKE TO BRING OVER OUR FINISHED PORTION OF THE SWEETS FOR KOMICHI.

ALL RIGHT, ON MY NEXT DAY OFF, THEN.

IF I BACK DOWN NOW, IT WILL BE JUST WHAT THE PROPRIETRESS WANTS.

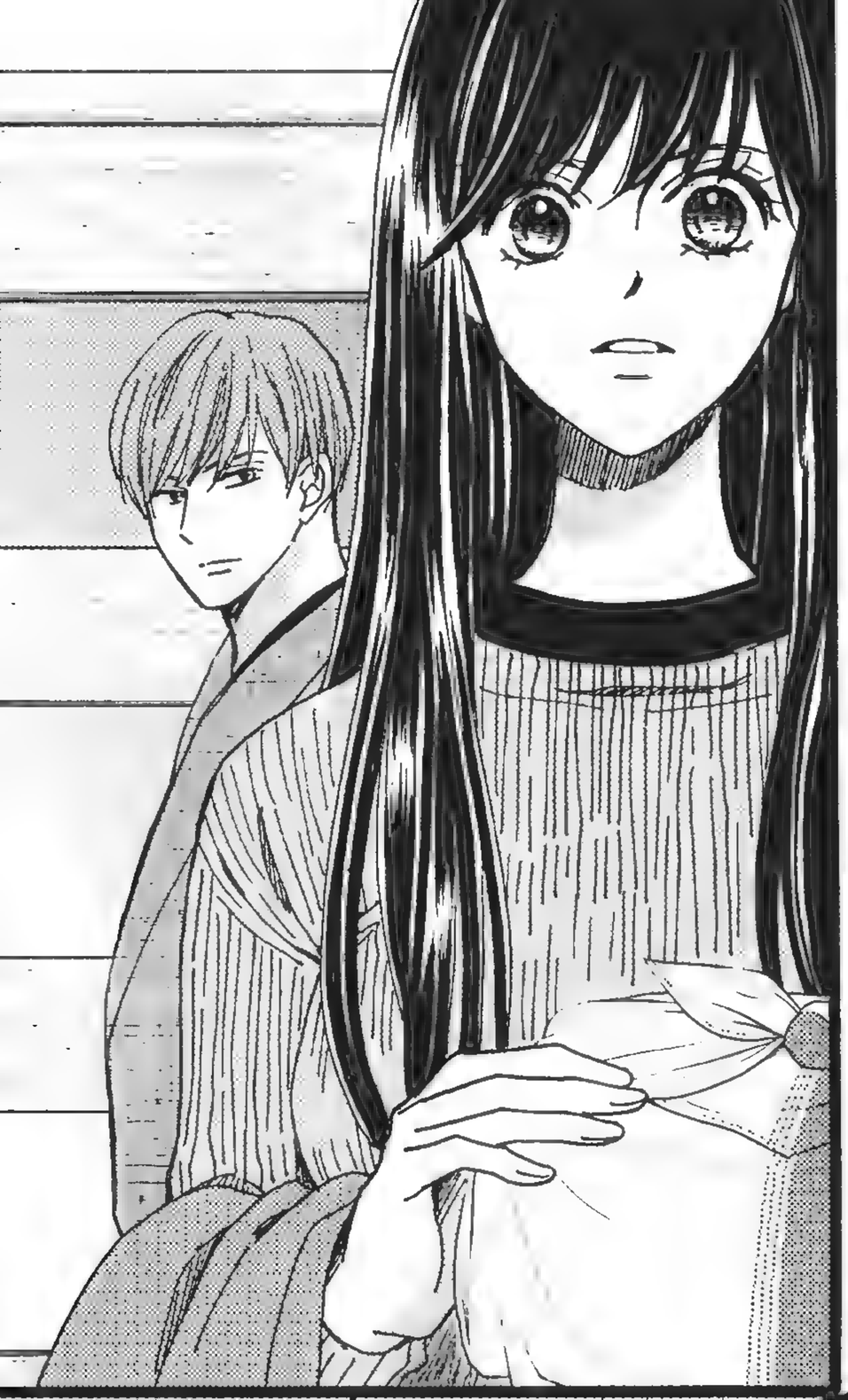
THIS TIME...

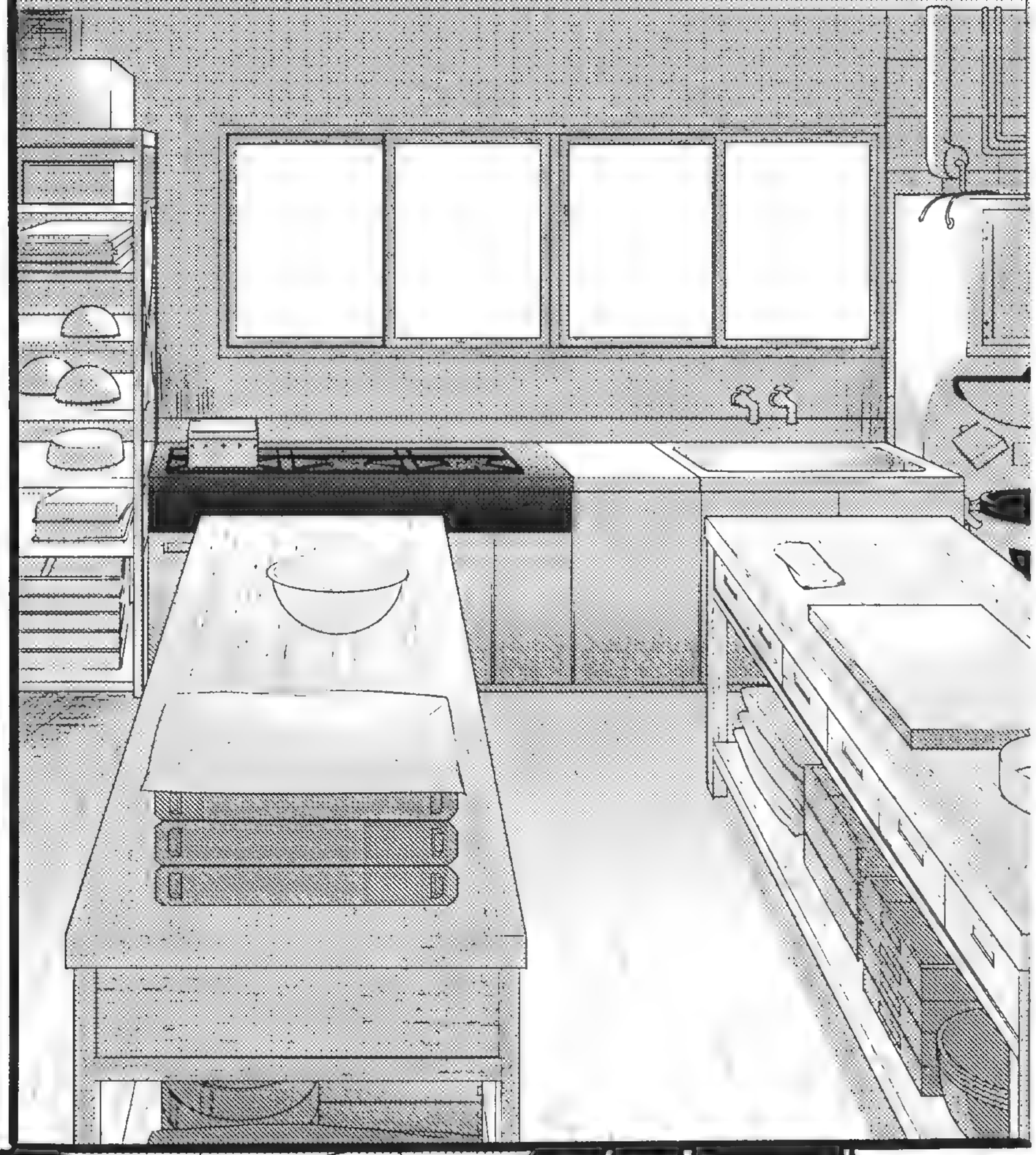
...I'LL PROTECT THE THINGS I CARE ABOUT.

光月庵

Sign: Kogetsuan

ナミ
CLATER





ギュ
GRIP

...HAPPENED HERE.

SO MUCH...

CAN YOU HOLD THIS IN PLACE?

THIS ONE'S SLIGHTLY SKEWED.

I THINK YOU NAILED THE GREEN TEA FLAVOR AS WELL, KOGETSUAN-SAN.

THE SHAPE'S GOOD.

JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SWEETNESS, TOO.

WE CAN DELIVER THESE TO KOMICHI NOW.

IT'S TSUBAKI'S CHILD.

THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU.

TSUBAKI-SAN.

A CUSTOMER WITH A HIGH-VOLUME ORDER.

ぱっ

FWISH

NOW THAT I'VE HANDED YOU THE SWEETS...

WELL...

...I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.

I'LL FIGURE OUT THE TIMING AND MAKE A CALL.

I'M GLAD THE CALL CAME WHEN IT DID...

PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE KOMICHI INN.

TUNK

I THINK...

...THE MAIN HOUSE WAS THIS WAY...

CREAK

CONSIDERING HOW HE LOOKED, HE MIGHT NOT HEAR ANYTHING I SAY.

BUT MAYBE WITH THE RIGHT STIMULATION...

WHERE?

WHERE COULD THE OLD MASTER BE?

IT'S NEW...

...BUT THE LAYOUT'S THE SAME...

GASP

はっ

CLATTER

カリ

SHIORI-SAN...

OH...

...AND I NEEDED TO USE THE RESTROOM ...

I-I'M SORRY... I WAS HERE ABOUT THE KOMICHI JOB...

AH...

WE APPRE-CIATE YOUR HELP...

EXCUSE ME.

...

UM...!

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, SHIORI-SAN!!

WILL YOU...

...TELL TSUBAKI-SAN TO GET HIS EYES TREATED...?

WHAT...?

LEAVING AN EYE INJURY CAN MAKE YOU GO BLIND...

SO PLEASE...

NOT AFTER THE *ENYUKAI*. RIGHT AWAY.

IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE OTHERWISE.

SHIORI-SAN, I'M SORRY.

THAT TRIANGLE STICK. COULD YOU PICK IT UP FOR ME?

TSUBAKI-SAN'S...

...EYES?

IT'S NO GOOD COMING FROM ME.

IT ONLY ADDS FUEL TO THE FIRE...

OH...

THE CLOSER WE GET, THE MORE WE HATE EACH OTHER.

BUT YOU, SHIORI-SAN...

PLEASE...

IF THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILD TALKS TO HIM,

I'M SURE HE'LL LISTEN.

I'M SURE HE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HAPPINESS.

EVEN IF I TAKE KOGETSUAN FROM HIM...

...TSUBAKI WILL HAVE HER BY HIS SIDE.

PLEASE.

I...
CAN'T...

I...

I'M
NOT...

NO...

WHY...

O...

OF
COURSE...

I'M
SORRY.

PLEASE
TAKE CARE
OF YOUR-
SELF.

SO WHY... DOESN'T SHE...?

CAN YOU SPARE A SEC?

DID TSUBAKI-SAN TELL HER ABOUT HIS EYES?

NO.

NAO-SAN MUST HAVE REALIZED ON HER OWN.

PLEASE.

I KNEW IT.

NAO-SAN STILL HAS FEELINGS FOR TSUBAKI-SAN...

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO EAT.

CLUNK

MANJU...

YOU CAN GET A NICE MOIST TEXTURE WITHOUT THE BEAN PASTE.

IT'S *KARUKAN*.

...BEAN PASTE INSIDE.

THERE'S NO...

LOTS OF PEOPLE GIVE LITTLE KIDS THE NON-BEAN PASTE KIND...

...BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT CAVITIES.

THAT *MANJU* YOU ATE WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...

SOMETIMES, YOU CAN'T TELL FROM THE OUTSIDE...

...WAS IT REALLY MEANT TO BE A LETDOWN?

PLEASE.

...NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS PACKED WITHIN.

TO BE LOVED...

I ONLY EVER...

...THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WANTED...

TO BE RECOGNIZED...

...THERE'S STILL SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR THE MAN I LOVE...

BUT MAYBE...

TH...

SCRUNCH

心外無別法

...I NEVER TOLD YOU, TSUBAKI-SAN.

...SOME-THING...

THERE'S...

COURAGE.

HAVE COURAGE, SHIORI!

DURING THAT FIRE, THREE YEARS AGO...

...YOU TRIED TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE WITH NAO-SAN.

THE COURAGE TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE HAPPY...

THERE HE IS...

THE OLD MASTER...

TUNK

GULP
ゴリ

CREAK
キリリ

TOR AIAO

ARE YOU SAKURA?

...

U...

UM...

A...

ARE YOU...

...

ITSU-KI'S...

...CHILD?

...

REA...LLY...

REA...

...LL...

OLD MASTER!!

O...

HE'S NOT BREATHING.

SMIRK

I'LL SEE THAT YOU MEET...

...THE SAME FATE AS THAT WOMAN, I PROMISE.

To be continued in Volume 11.

I wrote in the volume 9 afterword that I had an operation, but now that I got the bad stuff out, my body is back to its healthy self!! I'm grateful to the many worried people who wrote to me. Your warm words really touched my heart... Thank you so much. ✧✧

Thank you so much,
Umesakura-sama,
Doi-sama,
Naganawa-sama,
Miyaji-sama,
Morizane-sama,
and my editor
Chikada-sama

I'm always encouraged by the letters I get. ✧✧

Natsumi Ando
c/o Kodansha BE · LOVE
2-12-21 Otowa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8001

BRA FOR KIMONO

WHEN THEY WERE GETTING TOGETHER THE VARIOUS ITEMS I NEEDED FOR WEARING MY KIMONO...

THIS IS INTERESTING.

YES.

IT PREVENTS THE BOSOM FROM SITTING ON THE *OBI* BELT.

THE OTHER DAY, I FINALLY GOT AROUND TO BUYING A KIMONO FOR MYSELF TO WEAR!!

わっ WOW

FINAL-LY...

FINAL-LYYY!

THEN I WON'T NEED ONE.

I'M TOO FLAT-CHESTED.

BRA FOR KIMONO

BUT...! EVEN IF IT'S JUST A TINY BIT, IT CAN GET SWEATY AND UNCOMFORTABLE! ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMMER!

THERE'S NOT EVEN A TINY BIT THERE.

MAYBE, BUT...

*THE ONE I BOUGHT IS A SUMMER **KOMON** KIMONO THAT'S SUITED FOR JULY AND AUGUST.*

APPARENTLY, SEPTEMBER CALLS FOR A DIFFERENT KIMONO FOR THE NEW SEASON...

*...AND I WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE THE **OBI** TO GO WITH IT. I'M REALLY STARTING TO SEE HOW DEEP AND COMPLEX THE WORLD OF KIMONOS IS.*

I DREAM OF ONE DAY BEING ABLE TO WEAR KIMONOS WITH CONFIDENCE.

WELL THEN, I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN VOLUME 11!

PAT ぎゅむ

PAT ぎゅむ

PLEASE EXCUSE ME!

...

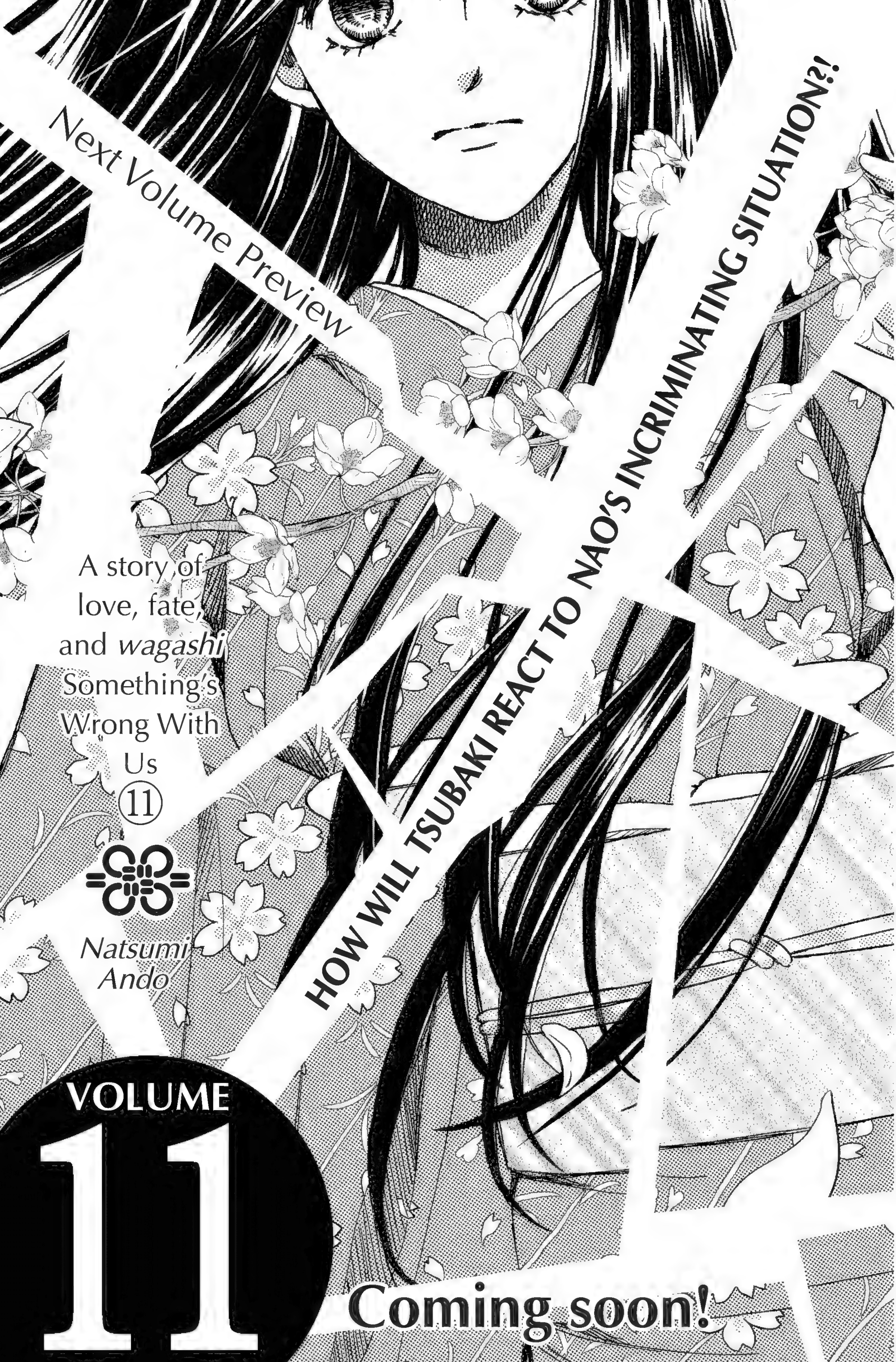
...

Oh, sure.

BRA FOR KIMONO

PLEASE GO RETURN THIS.

SORRY...


Next Volume Preview
HOW WILL TSUBAKI REACT TO NAO'S INCRIMINATING SITUATION?!
A story of love, fate, and *wagashi*
Something's Wrong With Us
⑪
Natsumi Ando
VOLUME 11
Coming soon!

Translation Notes

Kaga Plum Wine, page 18
The Kaga domain was the area that covered what is now the Ishikawa prefecture and the Toyama prefecture during the feudal era. Kaga Plum Wine is local to the Kanazawa area where Kogetsuan is located, made from plums that are particular to the Northern region of Japan.

rakugan, page 24
Pressed sugar candies made with sugar and starch. They're made using traditional wooden molds and come in all kinds of colors and shapes.

kanten, page 24
A jelly made with an algae-based coagulant called agar. It has a higher melting point than gelatin and holds its shape better.

Tsubaki-san, page 58
In very formal households like the Takatsuki family, the mother will often address her children with the "-san" honorific. "-san" is akin to "Mr., Ms., Mx." etc. The proprietress generally addresses Tsubaki as "Tsubaki-san," but occasionally drops the honorific when not in front of others.

manju, page 93
A bite-sized bun with sweet filling, usually bean paste.

kabocha, page 93
The *kabocha* squash, also sometimes called *nankin*, is a sweet, pumpkin-like squash that's often used in *wagashi* during the winter.

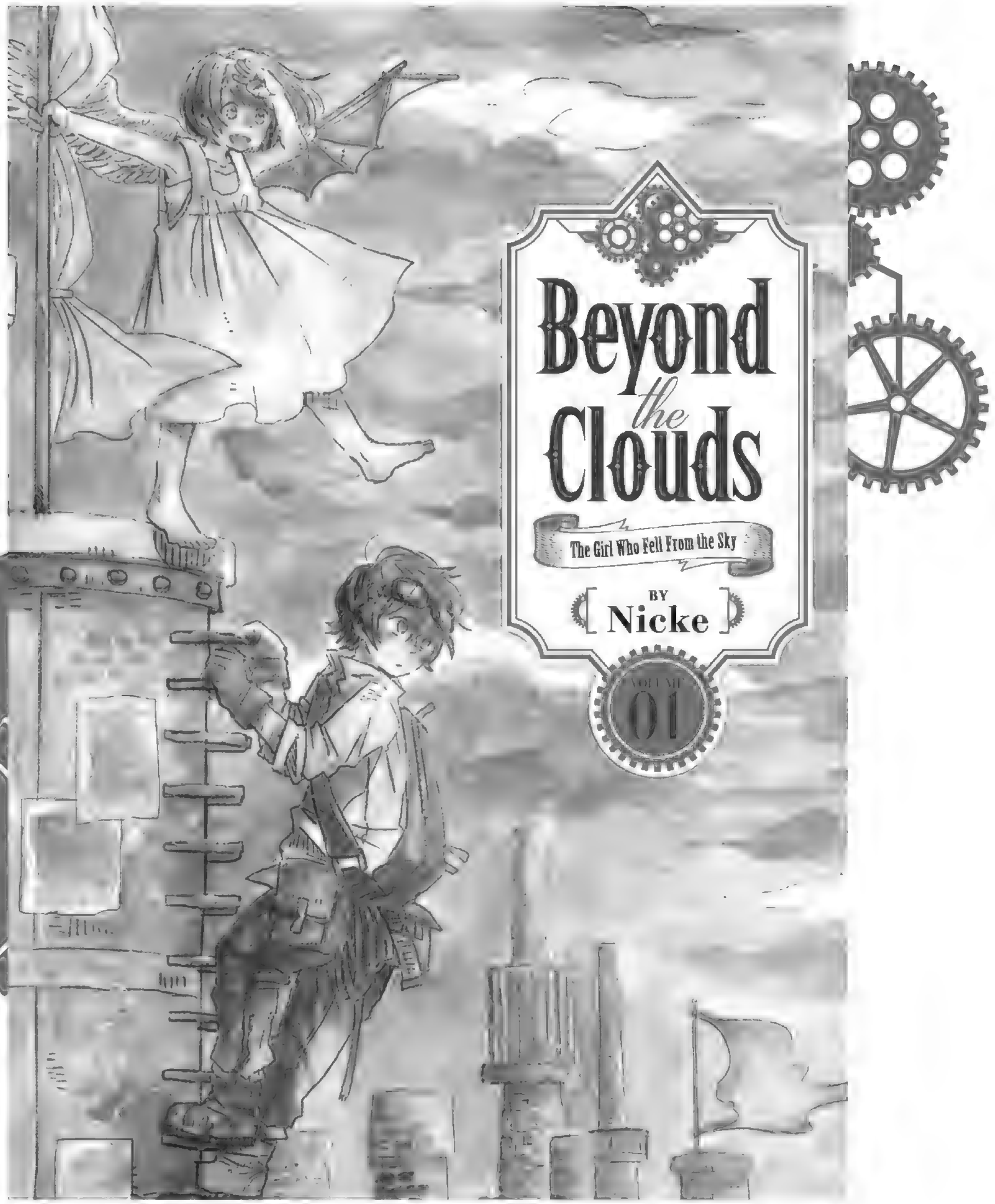
kazahana, page 100
Literally "wind-flower," this is a poetic term used to described a snow flurry.

Kogetsuan-san, page 128
Kogetsuan is not Tsubaki's name, but when people run a business (especially in retail) they can be addressed by the store's name with the -san honorific attached. Nao addresses Tsubaki this way to make it clear that she is calling about business.

karukan, page 147
A type of steamed cake from southern Japan made from rice flour, sticky yam, and sugar. Some are made into *manju* with bean paste inside, but traditional *karukan* were shaped into blocks with no filling.

komon kimono, page 158
Komon, literally meaning "small patterns," is a style of kimono with relatively small, repeating patterns all over the fabric. It is a relatively informal style for everyday use and casual occasions.

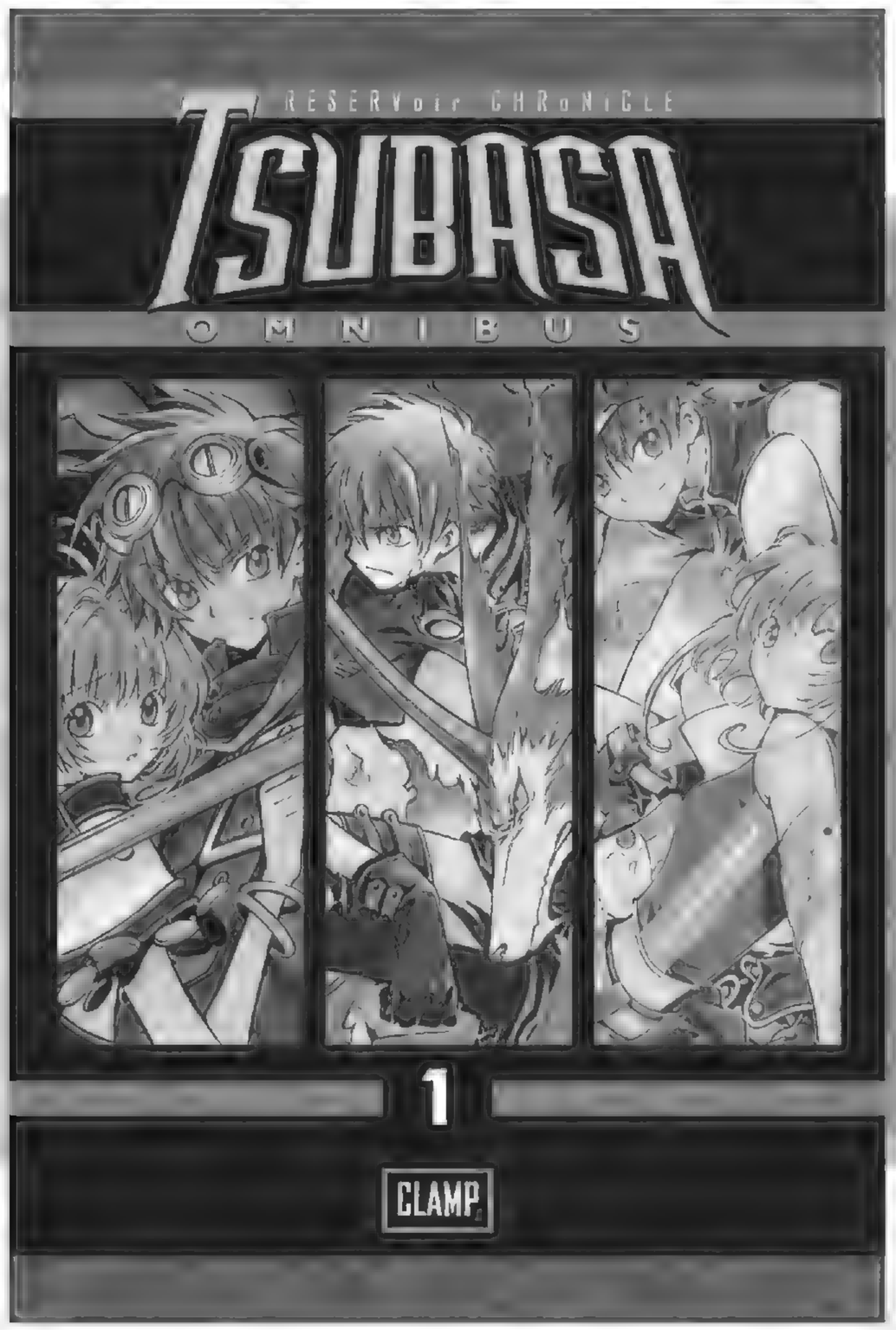
Young characters and steampunk setting, like *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Battle Angel Alita*



Beyond the Clouds © 2018 Nicke / Ki-oon

A boy with a talent for machines and a mysterious girl whose wings he's fixed will take you beyond the clouds! In the tradition of the high-flying, resonant adventure stories of Studio Ghibli comes a gorgeous tale about the longing of young hearts for adventure and friendship!

The beloved characters from *Cardcaptor Sakura* return in a brand new, reimagined fantasy adventure!



"[*Tsubasa*] takes readers on a fantastic ride that only gets more exhilarating with each successive chapter." —Anime News Network

In the Kingdom of Clow, an archaeological dig unleashes an incredible power, causing Princess Sakura to lose her memories. To save her, her childhood friend Syaoran must follow the orders of the Dimension Witch and travel alongside Kurogane, an unrivaled warrior; Fai, a powerful magician; and Mokona, a curiously strange creature, to retrieve Sakura's dispersed memories!

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

A SMART, NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY FOR FANS OF *SHORTCAKE CAKE* AND *TERRACE HOUSE*!

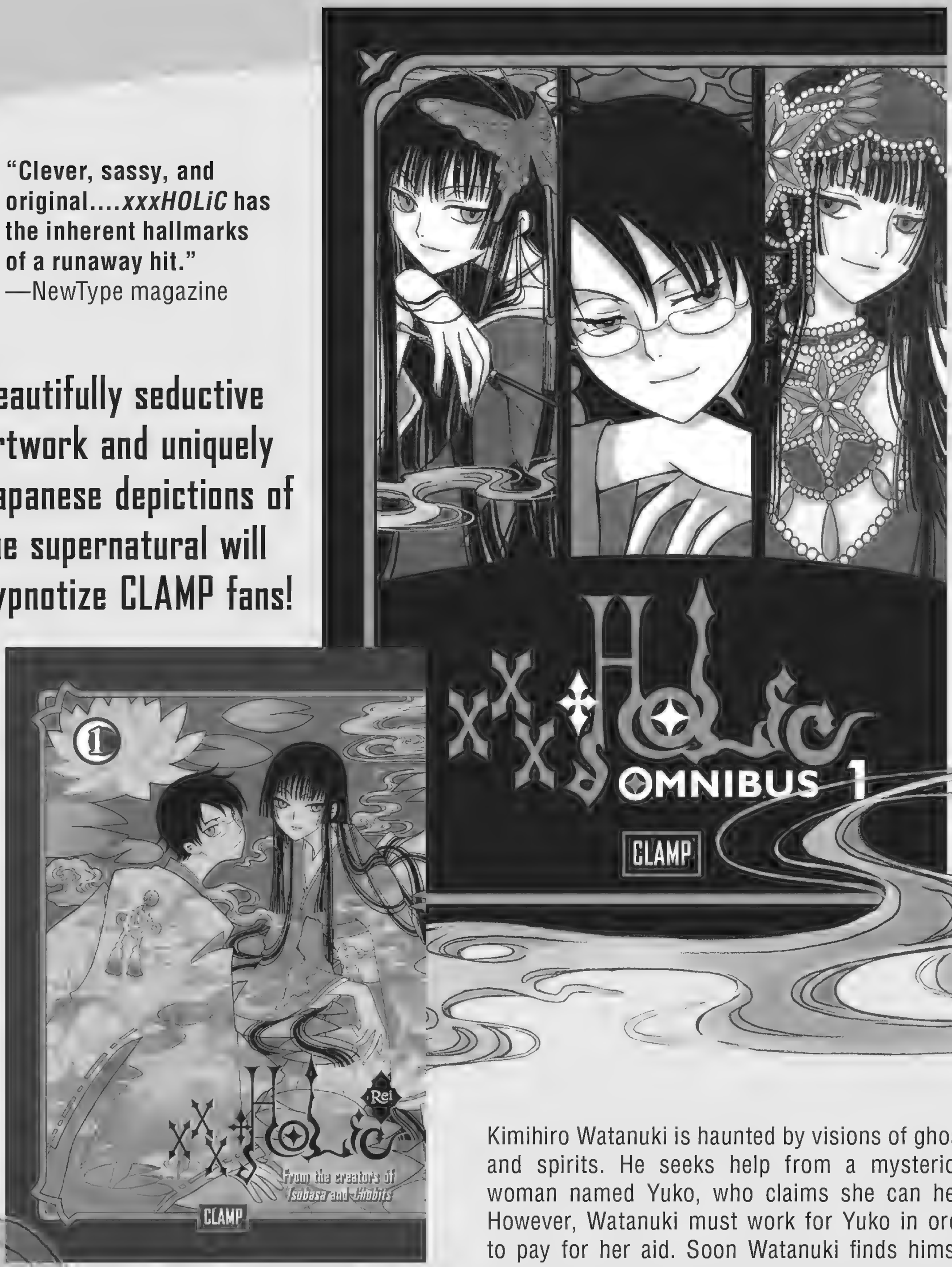
Living-Room Matsunaga-san © Keiko Iwashita / Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

A romance manga starring high school girl Meeko, who learns to live on her own in a boarding house whose living room is home to the odd (but handsome) Matsunaga-san. She begins to adjust to her new life away from her parents, but Meeko soon learns that no matter how far away from home she is, she's still a young girl at heart — especially when she finds herself falling for Matsunaga-san.

"Clever, sassy, and original....*xxxHOLiC* has the inherent hallmarks of a runaway hit."
—NewType magazine

Beautifully seductive artwork and uniquely Japanese depictions of the supernatural will hypnotize CLAMP fans!



xxxHOLiC © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.
xxxHOLiC Rei © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Kimihiro Watanuki is haunted by visions of ghosts and spirits. He seeks help from a mysterious woman named Yuko, who claims she can help. However, Watanuki must work for Yuko in order to pay for her aid. Soon Watanuki finds himself employed in Yuko's shop, where he sees things and meets customers that are stranger than anything he could have ever imagined.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

PERFECT WORLD

Rie Aruga

An office party reunites Tsugumi with her high school crush Itsuki. He's realized his dream of becoming an architect, but along the way, he experienced a spinal injury that put him in a wheelchair. Now Tsugumi's rekindled feelings will butt up against prejudices she never considered — and Itsuki will have to decide if he's ready to let someone into his heart...

"Depicts with great delicacy and courage the difficulties some with disabilities experience getting involved in romantic relationships... Rie Aruga refuses to romanticize, pushing her heroine to face the reality of disability. She invites her readers to the same tasks of empathy, knowledge and recognition."
—Slate.fr

"An important entry [in manga romance]... The emotional core of both plot and characters indicates thoughtfulness... [Aruga's] research is readily apparent in the text and artwork, making this feel like a real story."
—Anime News Network

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Perfect World © Rie Aruga/Kodansha Ltd

The boys are back, in 400-page hardcovers that are as pretty and badass as they are!

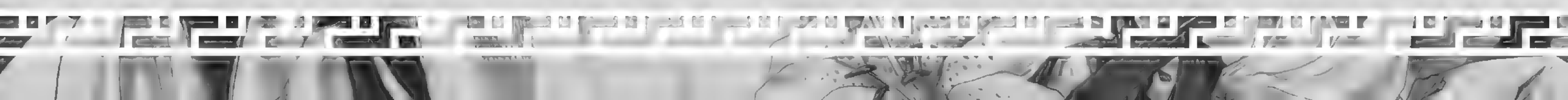
Saiyuki © Kazuya Minakura / Ichijinsha Inc.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

"AN EDGY COMIC LOOK AT AN ANCIENT CHINESE TALE." —YALSA

Genjo Sanzo is a Buddhist priest in the city of Togenkyo, which is being ravaged by yokai spirits that have fallen out of balance with the natural order. His superiors send him on a journey far to the west to discover why this is happening and how to stop it. His companions are three yokai with human souls. But this is no day trip — the four will encounter many discoveries and horrors on the way.

FEATURES NEW TRANSLATION, COLOR PAGES, AND BEAUTIFUL WRAPAROUND COVER ART!



One of CLAMP's biggest hits returns in this definitive, premium, hardcover 20th anniversary collector's edition!

"A wonderfully entertaining story that would be a great installment in anybody's manga collection."
— Anime News Network

"CLAMP is an all-female manga-creating team whose feminine touch shows in this entertaining, sci-fi soap opera."
— Publishers Weekly

Chobits © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Poor college student Hideki is down on his luck. All he wants is a good job, a girlfriend, and his very own "persocom"—the latest and greatest in humanoid computer technology. Hideki's luck changes one night when he finds Chi—a persocom thrown out in a pile of trash. But Hideki soon discovers that there's much more to his cute new persocom than meets the eye.

KC
KODANSHA COMICS

The adorable new odd-couple cat comedy manga from the creator of the beloved *Chi's Sweet Home*, in full color!

Praise for *Chi's Sweet Home*

"Nearly impossible to turn away... a true all-ages title that anyone, young or old, cat lover or not, will enjoy. The stories will bring a smile to your face and warm your heart."

—School Library Journal

Sue & Tai-chan

Konami Kanata

Sue is an aging housecat who's looking forward to living out her life in peace... but her plans change when the mischievous black tomcat Tai-chan enters the picture! Hey! Sue never signed up to be a catsitter! *Sue & Tai-chan* is the latest from the reigning meow-narch of cute kitty comics, Konami Kanata.

Sue & Tai-chan © Konami Kanata/Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

THE SWEET SCENT OF LOVE IS IN THE AIR! FOR FANS OF OFFBEAT ROMANCES LIKE WOTAKOI

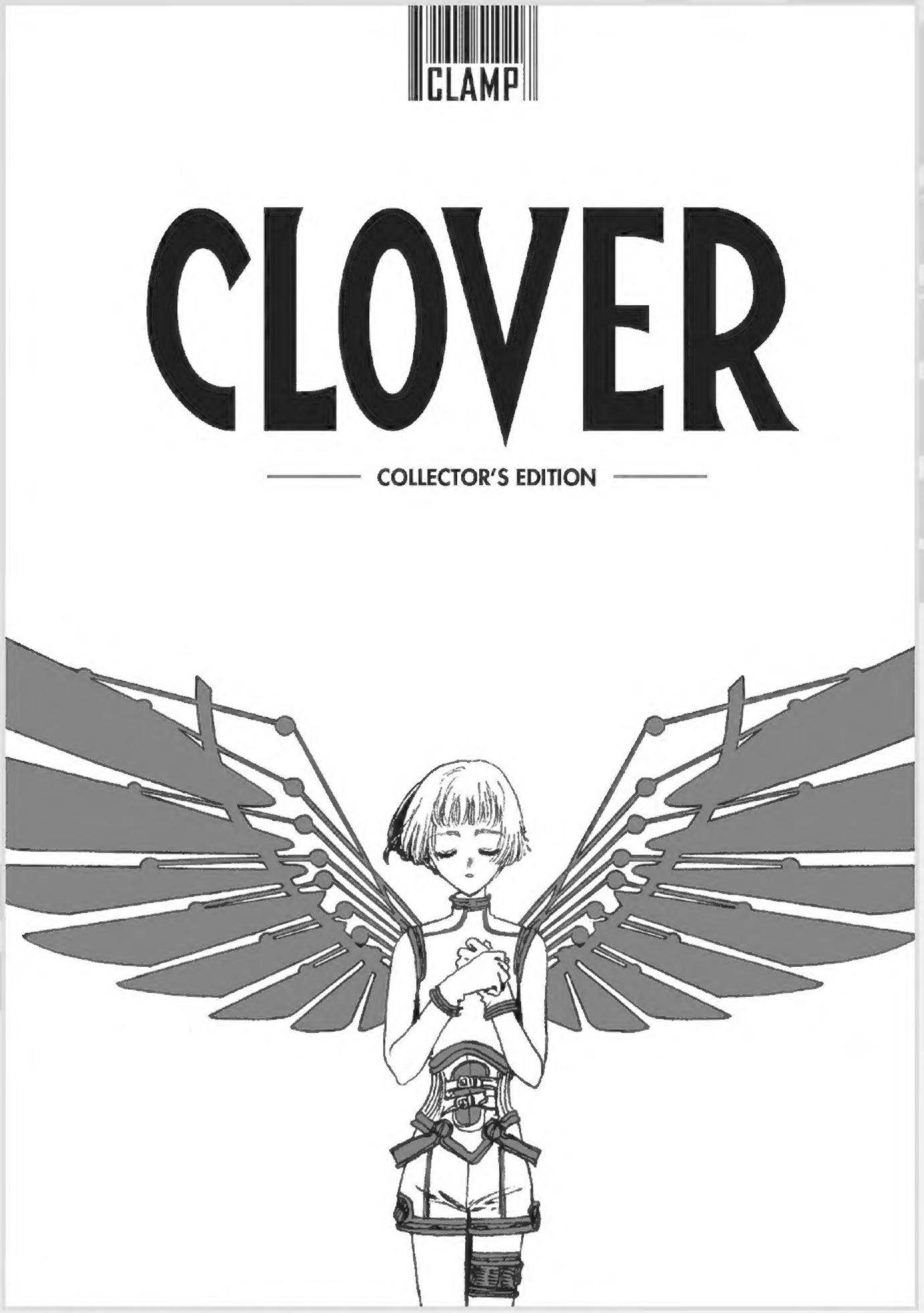
Sweat and Soap © Kintetsu Yamada / Kodansha Ltd.

In an office romance, there's a fine line between sexy and awkward... and that line is where Asako — a woman who sweats copiously — meets Koutarou — a perfume developer who can't get enough of Asako's, er, scent. Don't miss a romcom manga like no other!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

The art-deco cyberpunk classic from the creators of *xxxHOLiC* and *Cardcaptor Sakura*!

"Starred Review. This experimental sci-fi work from CLAMP reads like a romantic version of *AKIRA*."
—Publishers Weekly

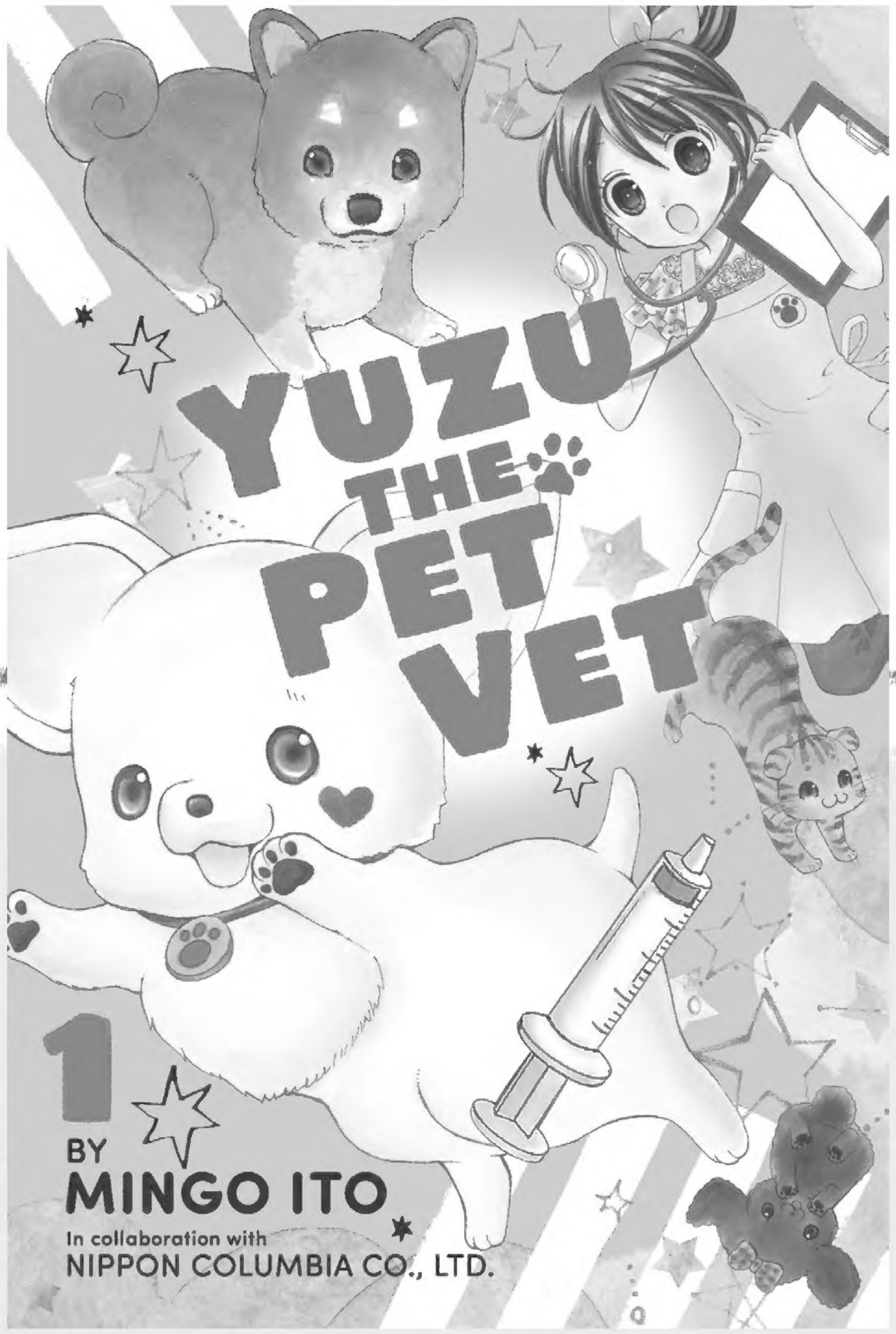


CLOVER © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Su was born into a bleak future, where the government keeps tight control over children with magical powers—codenamed "Clovers." With Su being the only "four-leaf" Clover in the world, she has been kept isolated nearly her whole life. Can ex-military agent Kazuhiko deliver her to the happiness she seeks? Experience the complete series in this hardcover edition, which also includes over twenty pages of ravishing color art!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

CUTE ANIMALS AND LIFE LESSONS, PERFECT FOR ASPIRING PET VETS OF ALL AGES!



Yuzu the Pet Vet © Mingo Ito / NIPPON COLUMBIA CO., LTD./ Kodansha Ltd.

For an 11-year-old, Yuzu has a lot on her plate. When her mom gets sick and has to be hospitalized, Yuzu goes to live with her uncle who runs the local veterinary clinic. Yuzu's always been scared of animals, but she tries to help out. Through all the tough moments in her life, Yuzu realizes that she can help make things all right with a little help from her animal pals, peers, and kind grown-ups.

Every new patient is a furry friend in the making!

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Cardcaptor Sakura
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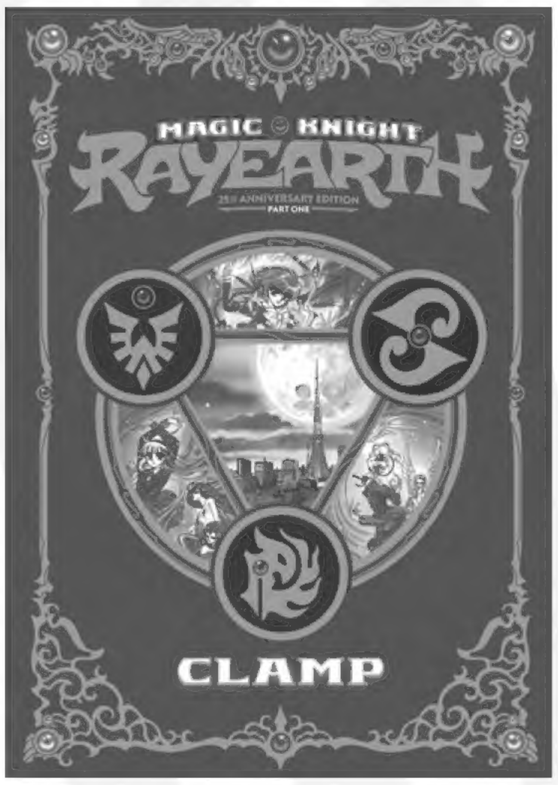

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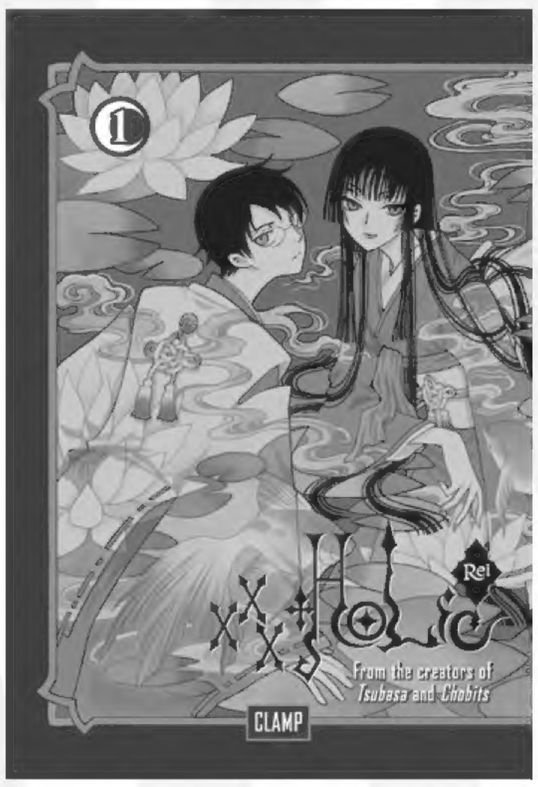

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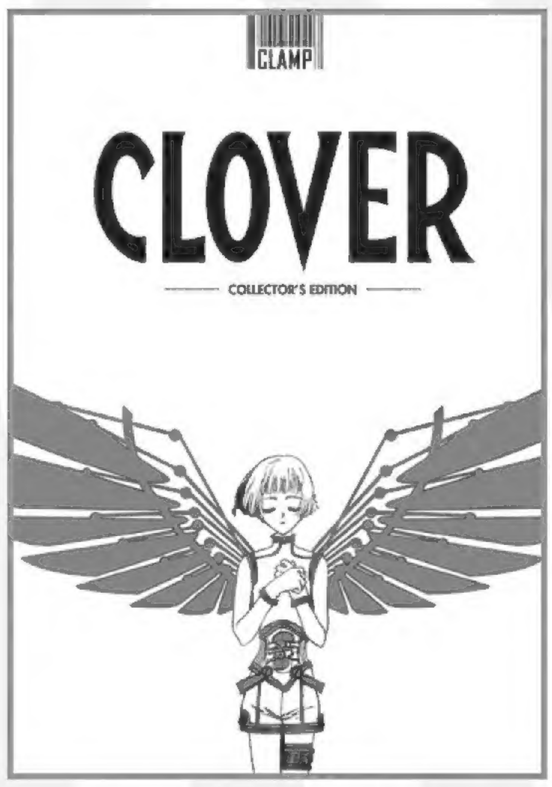

CLOVER Collector's Edition

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Kodansha Comics welcomes you to explore the expansive world of CLAMP, the all-female artist collective that has produced some of the most acclaimed manga of the century. Our growing catalog includes icons like *Cardcaptor Sakura* and *Magic Knight Rayearth*, each crafted with CLAMP's one-of-a-kind style and characters!

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Something's Wrong With Us 10

Kodansha Digital Edition

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